

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 DPW-01 IO-12 AID-20 RSR-01

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O R 021015 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1037

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAB

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON AOSOP

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 SAIGON 7611

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT, MAY 2, 1973

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY AS OF 1800 MAY 2.

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

PART I ICCS: TWO ICCS- MARKED CHOPPERS TURNED BACK BY FIRE OVER PRG TERRITORY IN MR-1; PRG STILL " HOLDING" ICCS IN DUC CO; ICCS TEAM AT QUANG TRI CRASH SITE REFUSED PERMISSION TO LEAVE BY ROAD.

PART II TPJMC: RVN CIVILIAN DETAINEE RELEASES AT LOC NINH STALLED.

PART III HANOI/ VC PROPAGANDA: REPORT THAT DRV DEL TO JEC HAS LEFT PARIS.

PART IV MR-1: CANDEL ICCS VERY UPSET AT RECENT FIRING ON CHOPPERS.

PART V MR-2: GEN. TOAN PREDICTS ENEMY OFFENSIVE.

PART VI MR-3: VERY LOW LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY.

PART VII MR-4: INTENSITY OF MILITARY ACTIVITY UP AGAIN; MORE POLISH- HUNGARIAN OBSTRUCTIONISM ON ICCS.

PART I: INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CONTROL AND SUPERVISION (ICCS)

1. THE CENTRAL PRG TPJMC ELEMENT AS OF MAY 2 HAS NOT RPT NOT AUTHORIZED THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE DUC CO ICCS POINT OF ENTRY TEAM WHICH

WAS ORDERED BY THE ICCS PLENARY ON APRIL 27.

2. THE SAGA OF THE QUANG TRI HELICOPTER INCIDENT CONTINUES. DOWNED CHOPPED NO. 115 HAS BEEN DISMANTLED AND THE RETRIEVABLE PARTS TRUCKED TO GIO LINH, WHERE THEY AWAIT ARLIFT TO QUANG TRI. SIX HELICOPTER FLIGHTS WILL BE NEEDED. AM MAY 2 TWO ICCS- MARKED CHOPPERS SOUGHT TO MAKE FIRST QUANG TRI- GIO LINH RUN TO BEGIN LIFTING THE PARTS BUT ENCOUNTERED SMALL ARMS FIRE SOME HALF MILE NOTHR OF THE THACH HAN RIVER OVER PRG TERRITORY. THEY WERE NOT RPT NOT HIT BUT TURNED BACK TO QUANG TRI.

3. THE ICCS TEAM AT THE CRASH SITE OF HELICOPTER 115 HAS
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ASKED PRG PERMISSION TO WITHDRAW BY ROAD, BUT THE PRG IS THUS FOR INSISTING THAT IT FLY OUT BY HELICOPTER. THE ICCS PERSONNEL, SOME OF THEM VETRANS OF THE APRIL 7 SHOOT DOWN, ARE UNDERSTAND- ABLY RELUCTANT TO PRESENT THEMSELVES AS TARGETS FOR PRG GUNNERS. IT IS NOT KNOWN WHY THE PRG, AFTER FIRST AGREEING TO HELICOPTER FLIGHTS TO AND FROM THE CRASH SITE AND THEN

REVERSING ITSELF, IS NOW INSISTING ON SUCH FLIGHTS.

4. RE INCIDENT RELATED IN PARA 2 ABOVE, CONGEN DANANG REPORTS THAT EACH HELICOPTER WAS CARRYING TWO ICCS REPS BUT NO PRG PERSONNEL WERE ON BOARD. FLIGHTS HAD REPORTEDLY BEEN PROPERLY CLEARED BY PRG IN GIO LINH, CONGEN FURTHER REPORTS THAT CANADIAN ICCS PERSONNEL ARE PREDICTABLY ANGERED BY THIS INCIDENT. ONE SERIOR CANDEL STATED THAT THIS " MOST RECENT INCIDENT EFFECTIVELY FORECLOSED FURTHER ICCS MOVEMENT INTO PRG CONTROLLED TERRITORY AND WOULD INCREASE INDONESIAN DESIRES TO PULL OUT OF ICCS TEAM SITES IN THOSE AREAS." HE EXPRESSED PERSONAL OPINION THAT THIS SECOND FIRING ON ICCS AIRCRAFT IN QUANG TRI, COUPLED WITH POLISH- HUNGARIAN OBSTRUCTIONISM, WOULD COME CLOSE TO " FINISHING" THE ICCS.

PART II: TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC)

1. SUBCOMMISSIONS MET MAY 2; THERE WAS NO INDICATION OF BREAK-THROUGH ON ANY OF THE MAIN POINTS NOW BEING DISCUSSED: DEPLOYMENT, RETURN OF MILITARY POW' S, PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES, OR CEASEFIRE.

2. THE RVN RELEASES OF CIVILIAN DETAINEES SCHEDULED FOR MAY 2 FAILED TO TAKE PLACE AND RVNDEL SOURCES ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT THEY COULD BE RESUMED MAY 3. THE ICCS ONCE AGAIN FOUND PRG ASSURANCES OF FLIGHT SECURITY TO LOC NINH INADEQUATE AND AT LAST REPORT, PRG AND ICCS REPRESENTATIVES WERE STILL TRYING TO WORK OUT A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. RVNDEL SOURCES CONCEDE THAT, SINCE RVN HAS RECEIVED 385 CIVILIAN PRISONERS AGAINST ONLY THE 100 TURNED OVER AT LOC NINH THUS FAR, THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO PROCEED UNTIL MORE LOC NINH RELEASES ARE ARRANGED.

PART III: HANOI/ VC PROPAGANDA

THE PARIS BUREAU OF THE VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY SENT A SERVICE CHANNEL
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MESSAGE TO HANOI ON MAY 1 INFORMING ITS HEADQUARTERS OF THE DEPARTURE FOR HOME OF THE DRV DELEGATION TO THE US/ DRV JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION (JEC) ON THAT DATE. THE BRIEF NOTE ATTRIBUTES THE DELEGATION' S DEPARTURE TO THE FACT THAT THE US " UNILATERALLY AND WITHOUT REASON" SUSPENDED THE COMMISSION' S MEETINGS. AN AFP DESPATCH ALSO ON MAY 1 QUOTES DRV VICE PREMIER NGUYEN CO THACH, A JEC DELEGATION MEMBER WHO MET RECENTLY WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SULLIVAN, TO THE EFFECT THAT " THE CLIMATE IS UNFAVORABLE" AT PRESENT FOR TALKS BETWEEN DR. KISSINGER AND LE DUC THO.

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 DPW-01 IO-12 AID-20 RSR-01

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O R 021015 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1038
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBSSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
USDEL JEC PARIS
AMEMBSSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
CINCPAC
CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB
COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON AOSOP
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 SAIGON 7611

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (T E X T)

PART IV: MR 1

1. THERE WAS LIGHT ACTIVITY ON MAY 1: A TOTAL OF 13 INCIDENTS,
ONE GROUND ATTACK AND NINE ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF' S), AND THREE
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OTHERS. NO ACTION WAS REPORTED IN THE MARINE OR AIRBORNE AO' S;
THE 1 ST DIVISION SAW FIVE ABF' S AND THE 2 ND DIVISION ONE GROUND

ATTACK AND ONE ABF. AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE OVE KHE SANH IN QUANG TRI INDICATES THE ENEMY HAS SOME 21 ANTI- AIRCRAFT INSTALLATIONS.

2. PROVINCE DIRECTOR QUANG NAM REPORTS THAT THE TPJMC IN THAT PRIVINCE TOGETHER WITH A SPECIAL ICCS DELEGATION FROM SAIGON PLANS TO TAKE PART IN A RELEASE OF SIX CIVILIANS BY THE PRG ON MAY 2/ THE LOCATION IS ABOUT 30 KILOMETERS WEST SOUTHWEST OF HOI AN. CONGEN COMMENT: CANDEL MEMBERS IN REGION II ICCS HEADQUARTERS (DANANG) TOLD POLOFF THAT SAIGON HAS SPECIFICALLY INSTRUCTED THEM NOT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE RELEASE OF CIVILIAN DETAINEES; VISIT REFLECT CLEARLY FACT THAT SAUDIS SEE SHAIKH KHALIFA AS THEIR CLOSEST AND MOST TRADITIONAL FRIEND IN AREA. THACHER

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AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
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COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON AOSOP

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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PART VI: MR 3

1. ACTIVITY IN MR 3 WAS AT A VERY LOW LEVEL, WITH ONLY 10 INCIDENTS REPORTED: THREE ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF), ONE GROUND CONTACT, AND SIX MINE INCIDENTS. THE SHELLING OF TONG LE CHAN RANGER BASE CAMP WAS LIGHT, ONLY 53 ROUNDS OF MIXED 61 M
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AND 82 MM MORTAR, WHICH KILLED ONE RANGER AND WOUNDED ANOTHER. THE ONLY GROUND CONTACT REPORTED OCCURRED AT 0900 MAY 1 WHEN AN ESTIMATED COMPANY- SIZE FORCE ATTACKED ELEMENTS OF THE ARVN 48 TH INFANTRY REGIMENT NINE KILOMETERS NORTH OF DUC THAN DISTRICT TOWN, PHUOC TUY PROVINCE.

2. ALL VIETNAMESE DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEFS AND DEPUTY SECTOR COMMANDERS ARE CURRENTLY AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER AT VUNG TAU FOR A WEEK- LONG (APGQL 30 - MAY 5) " P VITICAL SEMINAR." THE TRAINING COURSES THAT HAVE BEEN HELD AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER DURING THE PAST TWO MONTHS FOR EVERYONE FROM DEPUTY PROVINCE CHRE MANY MARCHES AND DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE LARGER CITIES AND INDUSTRIAL CENTERS. AIR TRAFFIC WAS NOT AFFECTED AND IN MOST PARTS OF THE COUNTRY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION WAS AT NEAR NORMAL. TUC GENSEC VICTOR FEATHER, WHO TOOK NO PART IN THE DEMONSTRATIONS, MADE NO SPEECHES, CALLED THE DAY " A REMARKABLE DEMONSTRATION" AND SAID HE WAS " HIGHLY SATISFIED". THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO FOUND SOME SATISFACTION. HE MAINTAINED IN COMMONS THAT 85 PERCENT OF TRADE UNIONS WERE AT THEIR JOBS, AND THAT THOSE WHO DID TAKE PART IN DEMONSTRATIONS WERE " A VERY SMALL PROPORTION OF THE WORKING POPULATION OF ABOUT 23 MILLION." CBI PRESIDENT MICHAEL CLAPHAM DISMISSED THE WORK STOPPAGE AS " TIRESOME" AND A POINTLESS GESTURE, A VIEWPOINT SHARED BY SOME MODERATES ON THE TUC GENERAL COUNCIL.

3. WHILE THE MAY DAY PERFORMANCE FELL SHORT OF THE HOPES OF MILITANTS IT DID REFLECT THE CONSIDERABLE UNREST THAT EXISTS AMONG WORKERS OVER THE WAGE FREEZE AND SUBSEQUENT PHASE TWO PAY AND PRICE POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, THE PROTESTS AND STRIKES WERE SOMEWHAT ANTI- CLIMATIC SINCE THE HIGH POINT OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT' S OPPOSITION TO PHASE TWO CAME AT THE TIME OF THE TUC' S SPECIAL CONGRESS (REFTEL) IN MARCH. SINCE THAT CONGRESS THE MOST CHALLENGING AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS

(POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY) PAY DISPUTES INVOLVING
GAS WORKERS, MINERS, CIVIL SERVANTS, RAILMEN AND
HOSPITAL WORKERS WERE SETTLED WITHIN THE PAY GUIDELINES.
THESE OBVIOUSLY TOOK A GREAT DEAL OF STEAM OUT OF THE
PROTEST MOVEMENT AND EVEN THE MOST MILITANT LEADERS
APPEARED CONTENT TO CALL IT A DAY ON PHASE TWO IN ORDER
TO GET READY FOR PHASE THREE. EVEN FEATHER A DAY OR SO
BEFORE MAY 1 ACKNOWLEDGED THE TRADE UNIONS' " RESENTFUL
ACQUIESCENCE" BUT " NON- ACCEPTANCE" OF PHASE TWO. HE
EMPHASIZED THAT THE TUC WAS MERELY " INVITING" ITS
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MEMBER UNIONS TO STRIKE AND DEMONSTRATE. AS PREVIOUSLY
REPORTED, THE ENGINEERING WORKERS' LEADER, HUGH SCANLON,
HAD EARLIER CONCEDED GOVERNMENT VICTORY IN PHASE TWO.

4. WITH MAY DAY NOW OUT OF THE WAY, THERE IS WIDESPREAD
EXPECTATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL SOON INVITE THE
TUC TO A NEW ROUND OF TALKS WHICH WILL NOT ONLY
ENCOMPASS THE NEXT STEPS IN THE COUNTER- INFLATION
PROGRAM BUT THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT AS WELL. THE
WAY WAS OPENED FOR DISCUSSION OF THIS CONTROVERSIAL LAW
LAST MONTH WHEN SCANLON, ITS MOST IMPLACABLE FOE,
PUBLICLY TALKED OF " AMENDMENTS" RATHER THAN OUTRIGHT
REPEAL (LONDON 4231). TUC LEADERS OF LEFT AND RIGHT
PERSUASION HAVE INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO MEET THE
GOVERNMENT. WITH THE UNIONS STILL HOLDING OUT FOR RIGID
PRICE CONTROLS, PARTICULARLY ON FOODS AND HOUSING,
AGREEMENT ON PHASE THREE PRINCIPLES WILL NOT BE EASY TO
REACH. YET JUDGING FROM THE STATEMENTS OF GOVERNMENT
MINISTERS IN PARLIAMENT, THE GOVERNMENT APPEARS DISPOSED
TO BEND A BIT IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT THE VOLUNTARY
ARRANGEMENT ALL SIDES SOUGHT IN THE ABORTIVE TRI- PARTITE
TALKS OF LAST YEAR. APPARENTLY THE NEW TALKS AT FIRST
WILL INVOLVE ONLY THE TUC AND THE GOVERNMENT, WITH THE
EMPLOYERS (CBI) BEING BROUGHT IN LATER IF A DEAL SEEMS
POSSIBLE. IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT THE TALKS WILL
TAKE PLACE AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF CONSIDERABLE UNREST
OF WORKERS WHOSE PAY HAS BEEN FROZEN THEN CONTROLLED
AND WHO SEE LIVING COSTS CONTINUING TO MOUNT. UNLESS
THIS IS BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL, THE WORKERS WILL FIND
MUCH SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT AMONG OTHER PARTS OF THE
POPULATION HIS BY INFLATION, AND ANOTHER MASS PROTEST
SUCH AS THAT OF MAY 1 COULD BE A MUCH MORE SERIOUS
MATTER. PHASE THREE IS DUE TO COME INTO EFFECT IN
OCTOBER ABOUT THE TIME NEGOTIATIONS IN THE ENGINEERING
INDUSTRY REACH THEIR DECISIVE STAGE.
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